

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE**



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Date Issued: Nov. 27, 2012

**EASTERN ALEUTIAN DISTRICT TANNER CRAB FISHERY OPENS JANUARY 15, 2013
GUIDELINE HARVEST LEVEL ANNOUNCED**

Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) has completed analysis of trawl survey results for the Eastern Aleutian District (EAD) Tanner crab stock.

The 2012 trawl survey estimates of mature male Tanner crab abundance were compared to established regulatory threshold abundance levels. Mature male abundance thresholds established for the Unalaska/Kalekta Bay, Makushin/Skan Bay, and Akutan Bay sections are set at 50 percent of the long-term average of mature male abundance. For a section of the EAD to open, a section must have achieved the threshold level of mature male abundance and a guideline harvest level (GHL) of at least 35,000 pounds.

In the Akutan Bay Section, the 2012 abundance estimate of mature males was below the mature male abundance threshold; therefore, the Akutan Section will be closed during the 2013 season.

In the Makushin/Skan Bay Section, the 2012 abundance estimate of mature males was above the mature male abundance threshold; however, the calculated GHL for 2013, as prescribed by the regulatory harvest strategy, fell below the 35,000 pound minimum GHL threshold; therefore, the Makushin/Skan Bay Section will be closed during the 2013 season.

In the Unalaska/Kalekta Bay Section, the 2012 abundance estimate of mature males is above the mature male abundance threshold for 2013. The Unalaska/Kalekta Bay section will open for the 2013 season with a GHL of 35,000 pounds.

The GHL for the 2013 EAD Tanner crab fishery is as follows:

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<u>Section</u>	<u>GHL</u> <u>(pounds)</u>
Akutan Bay	CLOSED
Makushin/Skan Bay	CLOSED
Unalaska/Kalekta Bay	35,000

Preseason registration forms must be received by ADF&G in Dutch Harbor by 5:00 p.m. December 24, 2012. Preseason registration forms are available at the Dutch Harbor office, at <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/cfregion4/dynamic/shellfish/management/vesreg/index>, or via fax upon request. A 2012 or 2013 T09O Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission permit card listing the vessel's ADF&G number is required at the time of preseason registration.

The number of vessels that preseason register by the December 24, 2012 deadline will be used to establish the pot limit for the 2013 fishery. Details on pot limit, buoy tag sales, tank inspections and inseason catch reporting will be announced via news release shortly after the preseason registration deadline.

The EAD commercial Tanner crab fishery will open at 12:00 noon on January 15, 2013. ADF&G will monitor the fishery inseason, and closure prior to achieving the GHL could result if preseason expectations of fishery performance are not met. Section boundaries are provided in 5 AAC 35.505 (c). Fishermen are reminded that in the EAD, vessels fishing for Tanner crab are limited to 58 feet or less in overall length.

For further information, contact the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Dutch Harbor at (907) 581-1239.

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